



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Environment and Natural Resources Committee DRAFT Minutes Thursday, July 12, 2018

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Lake County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Members Present: Keary Cragan (via phone) – U.S. EPA, Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Jackie Forbes – Kane County Division of Transportation, Stacy Meyers – Openlands, Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Deb Stone – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Mike Prusilla – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation, Moira Zellner – University of Illinois-Chicago

Members Absent: Lynn Boerman – IDNR, Ed Collins – McHenry County Conservation District, Danielle Gallet – Metropolitan Planning Council, David Leopold – CityTech, Mike Sullivan – IDOT, Kim Wasserman-Nieto – Little Village Environmental Justice Organization,

Staff Present: Nora Beck, Brian Daly, Kate Evasic, Stephanie Levine, Jason Navota, Jared Patton, Stephane Phifer, Elizabeth Schuh

Others Present: Lydia Scott – Chicago Region Trees Initiative, Ryan Peterson – Kane/Kendall Council of Mayors, Cody Sheriff – McHenry County Council of Mayors

1.0 Call to Order

Jack Darin called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

- **Update to September meeting date:** The ENR committee will meet on September 13 instead of September 6. Nora will update the outlook calendar invite.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 7 meeting was made by Martha Dooley, seconded by Sean Wiedel. The motion carried with all in favor.

4.0 ON TO 2050 draft – Elizabeth Schuh, CMAP

The draft version of the [ON TO 2050 comprehensive regional plan](#) will be available for public comment from June 15 to August 14, 2018. CMAP will host a series of [open houses and a public hearing](#) over the summer about the draft plan. Staff will spend the summer months soliciting input and verifying the recommendations of the Plan, prior to final adoption in October. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Liz provided an overview of the plan and the planning process. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- **Implementation of governance recommendations and the LTA program.** CMAP plans to offer more customized assistance to stakeholders in the region by adding more targeted training opportunities within the standard LTA process as well as embed staff into communities facing difficult challenges. Looking to integrate this in the next call for projects this September.
- **Varying job skill levels.** CMAP has worked to understand some of the longer-term economic shifts in our region. Patterns of job polarization- increased demand for low and high-skilled occupations, accompanied a decreasing demand for middle skilled occupations- has been observed and discussed at a national level. The policy update series consists of three parts. The [first policy update](#) examines labor market trends at the national level and reviews economic research explaining these trends. The bulk of the analysis on job polarization in the Chicago region is in the [second update](#). The [final update](#) compares labor market shifts in peer metropolitan areas.
- **Next steps.** CMAP is collecting public comments on the draft plan until August 14, at which point staff will work to revise the draft. Staff are currently working on developing the visual elements of the plan with the goal of making the concepts and recommendations more engaging. The CMAP working committees will receive a memo summarizing the types of feedback collected during the public comment period and how the plan will be revised. The adoption process requires that the CMAP Transportation Committee review and approve of the draft before it goes to the CMAP Board. That will occur on September 21.

5.0 Chicago Region Trees Initiative Master Plan – Lydia Scott, CRTI

The Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI) has developed a master plan, which sets goals for regional tree canopy, invasive species removal, and outreach and education. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Lydia Scott provided an overview of the plan process and recommendations. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- **Development requirements.** Discussion about how meeting the goal of 12 trees per person may not necessarily be accomplished within an individual subdivision approval process. However, residential areas have the most potential area for new trees and it's where we want the benefits of trees.
- **Native tree recommendations.** The CRTI master plan will make native tree recommendations as well as outline several strategies for increasing access to natives within nurseries and addressing invasive species. The Illinois Invasive Species Council needs to be reactivated to help address these issues. Recently passed legislation allows the state nursery to help increase access to native plants.

- **Workforce development.** GreenCorps has had challenges recruiting people of color into tree care; unlike ecosystem recreation. Transportation challenges are a major component of this, Davies has offices in Chicago.
- **Adequacy of nursery stock and building champions.** The Illinois Tollway has a goal of planting 58,000 trees in the next 3 years and they have a specific species list and locations identified. State nursery can sell trees to the counties. Building up capacity within Community Colleges is also another route.
- **Staff capacity.** Discussion about shared services and embedded staff with tree care skills. CRTI has a 2-day training for \$20 a day to help education municipal staff. Communities often send their entire public works department as most staff get involved in tree care. Discussion about also including streets and sanitation staff to understand tree (and sewer) protection strategies. There's also the community Tree Network that helps provide mentorship opportunities.
- **Tree giveaways and value.** Discussion about how agencies have struggled to give away trees in the past. One of CRTI's master plan goals is to teach people to value trees to help combat this issue.
- **Resources for local planners.** CRTI has a three tier program and has worked with CMAP on development ordinance updates to help protect trees. CRTI is producing educational videos designed for municipal leaders to help talk about this issue. The videos are 5-7 minutes long and can be shown during a board or commission meeting.

6.0 Fox River Corridor Plan – Kate Evasic, CMAP

Through the LTA program, CMAP is assisting McHenry and Lake Counties, local governments, and organizations to create a [corridor plan](#) for the Fox River to improve water quality, multi-modal transportation access, recreation and open space, and river-related commerce. The planning area spans eight communities, conservation areas, forest preserves, and parks over a distance of 11 miles and builds on the LTA Fox River Corridor Plan for the Villages of Algonquin and Carpentersville completed in December 2015. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Kate Evasic provided an overview of the process and the plan recommendations. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- **Designation by the National Park Service as a Water Trail.** Following the criteria established by the NPS, a plan is being submitted by bi-state partners to designate the Fox River as a water trail. The corridor plan is contributing to this effort.
- **Illustrations.** The illustrations were done by Bruce Bondy.
- **Competing visions for the river.** Discussion about drawing new users to the river and different economic development and recreational access within the corridor.
- **Future Fox River Corridor Plans.** Additional corridor work could be of interest along further reaches of the river. The LTA call for projects will open on September 6 and close October 26.

7.0 Other Business.

None.

8.0 Public Comment

None.

9.0 Next Meeting

The next ENR Committee is scheduled for September 13, 2018 at 9:30 am in the Lake County conference room.

- A request was made to cover the regional water demand forecast at the next meeting.

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nora Beck (ENR Committee Liaison)
July 12, 2018